

## Message Text

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43 41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ABF-01 SS-15 PM-07 H-02 L-03 M-03

IGA-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

RSR-01 /080 W

----- 074664

P R 281017 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4751

INFO DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 4671

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: AFSP, MASS, LA

SUBJ: GAO REVIEW OF US ACTIVITIES IN LAOS

SUMMARY: TRANSMITTED BELOW IS GAO REQUEST FOR DETAILED INFORMATION OF RLAF BONUS PAYMENTS AND ANY OTHER INCENTIVE PAYMENTS TO LAO REGULAR AND IRREGULAR MILITARY PERSONNEL. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS ON REPLYING TO GAO MEMO. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING IS QUOTED TEXT OF GAO MEMO DATED 27 JUNE 73 FROM FAR EAST BRANCH BANGKOK OFFICE SITE SUPERVISOR RONALD L. KING TO A/ DCM, SUBJECT: REVIEW OF US ACTIVITIES RELATED TO LAOS ( CODE 49212). UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED.

QUOTE PARA ONE OBJECTIVE OF SUBJECT REVIEW IS PROVIDE CONGRESS FACTUAL INFO ON EXTENT US INVOLVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE IN LAOS-- MILITARY AND ECONOMIC. RECENTLY ARTICLE IN NEWSPAPER INDICATED RLAF PILOTS WERE BEING PAID " COMBAT PAY" FOR MISSIONS NEVER FLOWN.

PARA BECAUSE OF NATURE AND OBJECTIVE OF REVIEW WHICH WE CONDUCTING IN LAOS, WE FEEL OBLIGATED OBTAIN WHATEVER INFO AVAILABLE THIS SUBJECT. THEREFORE, IT IS REQUESTED WE BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROVIDED ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- A. WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION FOR THESE PAYMENTS?
- B. HOW LONG HAVE THESE PAYMENTS BEEN MADE?
- C. WHAT IS CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING FOR THIS EXTRA PAY?
- D. HOW MUCH IS PAY PER MONTH PER PILOT?
- E. WHAT IS TOTAL AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR THIS TYPE PAY,  
BY YEAR, SINCE INCEPTION?
- F. IS PAY STILL GIVEN PILOTS? UNDER SAME NAME?

PARA WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING SAME INFO ON ANY  
OTHER INCENTIVE- TYPE PAYMENTS TO MILITARY PERSONNEL IN  
LAOS-- REGULAR OR IRREGULAR.

PARA IN ADDITION, AS PART OF OUR REVIEW WE NEED VISIT SOME  
LAO MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

PARA REQUIREMENT ARISES NOT ONLY FROM REVIEW OBJECTIVE  
STATED ABOVE, BUT FROM TWO OTHER SOURCES. FIRST, AS PART OF  
OUR NORMAL REVIEW PROCEDURES, WE MUST FOLLOW- UP ON  
CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN ON PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS  
MADE BY OURSELVES AND OTHER AUDIT AGENCIES. IN JAN 71,  
DOD AUDITORS ISSUED AUDIT REPORT CRITICIZING USE AND  
CONDITION OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED LAO ARMED FORCES. SECOND,  
AND PRIMARY REASON MAKING FIELD VISITS MORE ESSENTIAL, IS  
REQUEST FROM SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS, SENATE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. IN SENATOR INOUE' S REPORT ON  
SUBCOMMITTEE DELEGATION RECENT VISIT TO LAOS, SENATOR MADE  
FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
SECTION:

INNER QUOTE 6. COMMITTEE UNDERSTANDS THAT GAO NOW  
HAS REVIEW UNDERWAY IN LAOS THAT WILL LOOK INTO  
EFFECTIVENESS ALL UNITED STATES PROGRAMS. COMMITTEE  
WELCOMES ANY VIEWS OR RECOMMENDATIONS GAO MAY  
HAVE AT CONCLUSION ITS FIELD REVIEW ON MANAGEMENT  
OF FEOF AND ON USE AND CONDITIONS OF MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE MATERIEL PROVIDED LAOS. END INNER QUOTE.

PARA OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE DIRECTED US MAKE NECESSARY  
INQUIRIES IN ORDER THAT COMPTROLLER GENERAL CAN RESPOND  
TO SENATOR' S REQUEST FOR VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN  
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OUR REVIEW COMPLETED.

PARA APPRECIATE SENSITIVITY THESE AREAS. THEREFORE, IF FOR  
SOME REASON YOU ARE UNABLE ACCOMMODATE REQUESTS, WOULD  
APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED THIS FACT IN WRITING SO CAN MAKE  
APPROPRIATE COMMENTS IN OUR REPORT.

PARA APPRECIATE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE YOU ABLE PROVIDE US  
CONCERNING ABOVE MATTERS. END QUOTE.

2. WE TOLD GAO REP GRINDEL THAT WE WOULD SEEK  
INSTRUCTIONS AND, IN INTERIM , WOULD FACILITATE  
VISIT TO FORWARD- DEPLOYED FAR ARTILLERY POSITION  
AS HE HAD REQUESTED. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON  
INSTRUCTIONS ON REPLYING TO GAO MEMO.  
DEAN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980310  
**Subject:** GAO REVIEW OF US ACTIVITIES IN LAOS  
**TAGS:** AFSP, MASS, LA  
**To:** CINCPAC  
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI  
EA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005